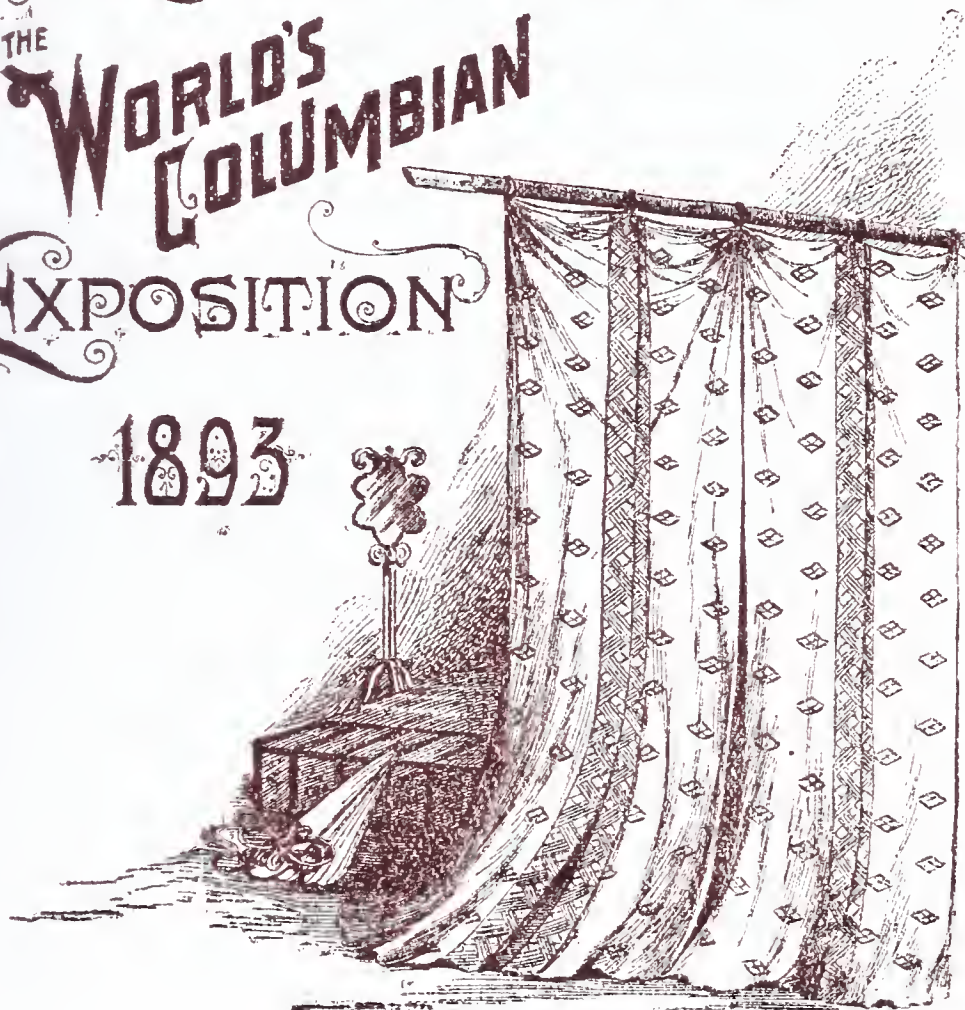


JAPANESE Woman's COMMISSION

FOR THE
WORLD'S
COLUMBIAN
EXPOSITION

1893





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Woman's Commission

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JAPANESE WOMAN'S COMMISSION

—FOR THE—

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ORGANIZATION.

AT the time when the grand scheme of the Board of Lady Managers of the World's Columbian Commission, encouraging exhibits of the products of industrial arts of women of all nations and other matters relating to them, was made known in Japan, some ladies planned to exhibit representative works at the Exposition. For this purpose they discussed forming a commission of their own sex. Just about this time Mrs. Potter Palmer, President of the Board of Lady Managers, presented a letter to Her Majesty, the Empress, through the American Legation in Tokyo, inviting her to organize a commission of Japanese ladies. Her Majesty, with her usual habit of helping any good work, especially for her own sex, most graciously pleased with the movement, generously bestowed a large gift to carry on the work of the Commission.

When the Woman's Commission had been formed, Princess Mōri assumed the duty of chairman, asked the members, who are mostly ladies of high rank, to act as committees on

several matters included therein, and appointed Mrs. K. Katō Takeda and Miss C. Takemura, both teachers in the Girls' Higher Normal School, as secretaries.

On the 13th of May, 1892, the first meeting of the Commission was held at *Shiba-Hama-Rikyū* (a pleasure palace in Tokyo). Since then, twice a month, they have held regular meetings to consider the affairs of the Commission. The members and secretaries are ladies of high education and accomplishments, and among them there are some who finished their education in America. All have capability and talent, are fully able to promote the work of women, and are enthusiastic devotees of the advancement of their sex.

EXHIBITS.

With a view to exhibit in the Woman's Building of the World's Columbian Exposition a collection of woman's work, the Japanese Woman's Commission has chosen the best workers in various arts and industries among their own sex, and ordered them to produce the articles to be exhibited. At present seventy-four women have been selected to produce seventy articles. This limitation was made, because, if it had been taken for granted that the productions of women in general were to be exhibited, there would be, not only many articles destitute of real merit, but there would also be a vast number of women desiring to exhibit, so that it would then be utterly impossible to arrange and show them in the limited space allotted to the Commission in the Woman's Building.

ARTICLES TO BE EXHIBITED.

Pictures (pure Japanese style).	Oil Paintings.
Carvings.	Cocoons.
Raw silk.	Fabrics.
Embroideries.	Crinkled textures and crapes.
<i>Yūzen</i> (a Japanese fabric).	Hand woven Gobelin.
<i>Oshie</i> (relief pictures).	Lace.
China ware and china painting.	Cloisonné.
Lacquer.	Artificial flowers.

In addition to these the Commission has had the special privilege granted by Her Majesty, the Empress Dowager, to exhibit four fabrics woven in her own palace. In this way there is shown, on the part of their majesties, the Empress and the Empress Dowager, a real sympathy with the objects of the World's Columbian Exposition, and a liberal encouragement is given to woman's work. It is also expected that the Children's Building will have some Japanese displays, which are now in contemplation in Japan.

A LADY'S ARTISTIC BOUDOIR.

Inasmuch as the dressing rooms of noble women, especially of the wives of *daimyōs* (feudal lords) of olden times in Japan, were artistic in decoration, it is to be hoped that the exhibition of their arrangement will be an additional attraction to the Woman's Building, in which two or three rooms will be constructed for the display of all the articles of a lady's toilet, one of the rooms being set apart for a lady's private library. These articles are special loans from the valuable treasures of Princess Mori, President of the Commission, and Marchionesses Maeda and Nabeshima, members thereof.

SPACE IN THE WOMAN'S BUILDING.

When space was requested in the Woman's Building for the exhibition of woman's work and a boudoir, eight hundred square feet on the left side of the entrance at the northern part of the building were assigned; of this one part is to be used for the boudoir, and the other for the exhibition of the articles. And, as all parts of the boudoir are to be in strictly Japanese style, they are specially prepared in Japan and sent over to this country.

PAMPHLETS AND BOOKS.

Certain members of the Commission, acting as committee, will investigate matters relating to their sex, such as women's work, the methods of their education, their works of charity, and institutions of philanthropy, and will compile documents giving the results of their investigation. They will also prepare a catalogue of the articles on exhibition and publish a book entitled "*Nippon Fujin*" ("Japanese Women"). The materials for this work are now being gathered by the members of the Commission and other women, working in the different directions indicated by the contents of the work, and in accordance with a systematic plan calculated to insure reliable results.

CONTENTS OF "NIPPON FUJIN."

1. Introduction- Woman's Position in Society.
2. Woman in Administration.
3. Woman in Literature.
4. Woman in Religion.
5. Woman in the Home.
 - (a) Child.
 - (b) Wife.
 - (c) Mother.

6. Woman in Industrial Occupations.
 - (a) Agriculture and Sericulture.
 - (b) Handicrafts.
 - (c) Mercantile Business.
7. Woman in Refined Accomplishments.
 - Fine Arts, Music, Painting, Floral Arrangement, Incense and Tea Ceremonies, etc.
8. Woman's Work during the Present Period, *Meiji* (since 1868).
 - Charitable and Philanthropic Works, Female Education, etc.

This book and the catalogue of the articles will be translated into English and printed. The material progress of the women of Japan can be ascertained in some degree from the articles shown, while some slight glimpses of their intellectual attainments may be obtained through the lenses of "*Nippon Fujin*."



Any communication relating to the Japanese Woman's Commission should be made to the Imperial Japanese Commission for the World's Columbian Exposition, 5503 Cornell Avenue, Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.



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